

# Minutes: Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

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**Date, time, and place**

Date: September 18, 2009  
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Place: Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, Iowa

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**Attendance**

**Present:** Gladys Alvarez, Jeff Anderson (for Mary Nelson), Jodi Angus, Maggie Baker, Mike Bergan, Mary Jane Brotherson, Angela Burke Boston, LaMark Combs, Gina Greene, Andrew Hall, Angela Hance, Julie Hahn, Kelly Hancock, Brad Kollars, Stacy Kramer, Barb Merrill, Heather Moorman, Carrie Sodders, Mary Stevens, Beth Troutman, Nansi Woods  
**Staff:** Julie Curry, Gloria Frolek-Clark, Marion Kresse, Tom Rendon, Dee Gethman, Rae Miller  
**Excused:** Michael Acarregui; Daryl Beall, Jane Borst, Sara Freiberg, Ron Koch, Mary Nelson, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Jo Ann Stone, Debra Waldron  
**Guests:** Dana Matigan, Lisa Naig, Nancy Peck

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**Call to order**

Kelly Hancock called meeting to order, introductions of Council members and guests took place. Established quorum.

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**Approval of previous minutes**

The council reviewed the minutes from May 15, 2009; one council member was added to the list of excused absences.  
**Action.** Motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Mary Stevens and seconded by Gladys Alvarez. The motion passed.

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**Topics discussed**

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Family Story	Julie Hahn
Lead Agency & Signatory Update	Kelly Hancock
ICEA nominations for 2009-10	Mary Stevens
APR Indicator C-4, Family Survey	Gloria Frolek-Clark
Early Childhood Iowa Overview	Tom Rendon
APR Indicator C-3, Outcomes	Dee Gethmann
ICEA Committees	Chair of committees
Sharing Activities	Council members

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### Family Story

Julie Hahn

Julie's daughter, Olivia, was given a CMV diagnosis at 18 weeks into pregnancy. When she was born she did not pass her newborn hearing screen. She was referred for additional testing and it was later determined that she could hear very little. Julie felt that she had wonderful support from Olivia's Early ACCESS teacher/service coordinator - who advocated for additional time to spend with Olivia.

It was eventually determined that Olivia was a candidate for a cochlear implant. While some children have a negative reaction to first hearing sounds, Olivia was thrilled and is a very talkative young lady. Julie and her husband have benefited from the supportive knowledgeable staff members of what she calls the "Olivia Network." They have taught her to ask for what she wants and to not give up just because someone first says "no."

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### Lead agency and signatory updates

Kelly Hancock

Kelly announced that Scott Beall had decided to resign from the ICEA. She also gave an update from the August 12, 2009 Executive Committee meeting.

- Discussed research done by Kelly Schulte to estimate the number of homeless children served by Early ACCESS.
  - Reported that Jim Donoghue gave an update on changes made to federal Medicaid rules made by the new administration. One significant change is that the federal government will no longer require one case manager.
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### Nominations committee

Mary Stevens

The following slate of officers and representatives to the Executive Committee was presented to the council members.

Kelly Hancock, Chair; Gina Green, Vice Chair

Stacy Kramer, Parent Representative; Carrie Soddors, At-large Representative

Jane Borst, Iowa Department of Public Health Representative

Mary Nelson, Iowa Department of Human Services

LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Lead Agency Representative

Mary Stevens, Early ACCESS Grantee Representative

Debra Waldron, Child Health Specialty Clinics Representative

The council members voted unanimously to approve the slate of officers.

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### **Annual Progress Report, C-4 family outcomes**

Gloria Frolek-Clark, Consultant, Bureau of Early Childhood Services

Gloria presented data regarding Indicator C-4, Family Outcomes. The Council felt that the data indicated that parents were satisfied with Early ACCESS services. There were some questions about how to interpret the data and how the researchers who developed the survey grouped individual answers. Council members suggested that “NA” should be an option for some questions and asked for additional information regarding the statistical significance of variations.

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### **Early Childhood Iowa**

Tom Rendon, Coordinator Iowa Head Start Collaboration Office

Tom provided an overview of Early Childhood Iowa Professional Development model and how various service specialties relate to one another. What began as a voluntary collaboration to improve services has been codified into Iowa law as Early Childhood Iowa Council. He pointed out that while the ideal is to collaborate in a seamless fashion there are often situations where families have a difficult time getting coordinated services when multiple agencies are involved.

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### **Annual Progress Report, C-3 ECO**

Dee Gethmann, Consultant, Bureau of Early Childhood Services

Dee talked with Council members about the initial Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) data that Early ACCESS has been collecting over the last three years. Because this was a new indicator, Dee has been working with other states and technical assistants from the federal government to develop a uniform data collection process to measure child outcomes for IDEA Part C. The purpose of this presentation was to prepare the Council for the November meeting and the task of selecting statewide outcome targets for Early ACCESS.

Council members had an active discussion regarding the meaning of the data presented and asked for additional information regarding the statistical tests used to analyze the data.

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### Committee reports

Each Committee Chair reported:

- Public Policy: Public Policy committee will coordinate state and federal early childhood policy makers to come to the full Council Meeting to educate Council members on proposed legislation that affects EI services and programs. Talked about a Day on the Hill poster to educate legislators on Early Intervention and impacts on families served. Will collect family stories.
- By Laws: the members were asked to look at the possibility of combining the Membership and Nominating committees. They also will study the problem of interim appointees not having voting powers until appointed by the Governor.
- Parent Leadership: Held a meeting for all parents on the Council prior to the regular meeting. Guest speaker was Paula Connolly from ASK Resource Center. She talked about how to become a more effective parent leader. She also talked about what it means to represent your constituency and be an engaged member on your state Council.
- Nominating: The committee has identified a potential Vice-Chair and will identify additional nominees for the 2010-2011 Council year.
- Governor's Report: Members were concerned about legislators receiving information about EA after the session has started. Recommended sending out the Governor's Report before the legislative session begins.
- Membership: Membership will work on finding a replacement for Scott Beall on the council.

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### Adjournment 3:15 PM

Kelly Hancock noted that the next meeting will be on November 20<sup>th</sup>, she thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting.

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